

100-342

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., JULY 20, 1939

The first meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1940 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building, on Thursday, July 20, 1939. The following members were present:

Mr. Clarke, Chairman,
Mr. Savage,
Mr. Borie,
Mr. Shepley,
Mr. Lamb,
Mr. Manship,
also H. P. Caemmerer,

Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a. m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS: The minutes of the meetings held June 9 and June 23, 1939, were approved.

2. ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE STATUARY: Mr. James E. Fraser, sculptor, conferred with the Commission concerning the execution of his statues for the entrance to the Rock Creek Parkway. Mr. Fraser said that after going over the matter he was ready to sign a contract to have his statues executed in Cherokee (Georgia) marble. He informed the Commission that the Bureau of Standards reports that Georgia marble is about equal to granite for durability.

Mr. Clarke said that Mr. Friedlander came to his office in New York City yesterday and informed him that he wanted to use Cherokee marble for his group at the entrance to the Arlington Memorial Bridge. The Commission had before them a sample of Cherokee marble which was considered to be satisfactory and in harmony with the Arlington Memorial Bridge.

The question was raised whether there would be an objection to having one pair of statues in marble and the other pair in granite. This matter was

discussed. Mr. Manship expressed himself heartily in favor of this suggestion and the Commission decided thereupon that there would be no objection on their part to such an arrangement. It was pointed out that the figures would be fully 500-600 feet apart. Mr. Shelley recommended the use of Chelmsford (Massachusetts) granite, saying that it has better lasting qualities than marble. The Commission then recommended the use of Chelmsford granite as an alternate. The use of Mt. Airy granite for the statues was not favored as it was thought that that granite is too dark for the statuary. The pedestals are of Mt. Airy granite. Mr. Fraser said he had been unable to get a bid from the Chelmsford quarry but would confer with them further in this matter.

Mr. Fraser proposes to cut his statue in nine pieces of stone. He said the stone would cost \$33,000, carving \$36,000, setting \$10,000, or a total of \$79,000, leaving \$6,571 as compensation to the sculptor and for miscellaneous expenses, as insurance, bonds, travel, etc. There is \$171,143 available for the four equestrians which allows \$65,571 for each pair of statues.

During the afternoon, Mr. Nagle, engineer of the National Park Service, conferred with the Commission concerning these statues. He reported that the old contracts of Mr. Fraser and Mr. Friedlander are still in existence and will have to be cancelled but such cancellation has the approval of the Comptroller General. Thereupon Mr. Nagle said he would suggest that the National Park Service be allowed to advertise for bids for several kinds of stone--granite and marble. This would create competition among the stone men, who would then submit reasonable bids, leaving the Commission of Fine Arts to select whatever stone was best and the most reasonable. Also the National Park Service could ask for bids from carvers,

The Commission considered this suggestion favorably with the understanding that each sculptor be allowed supervision over his group of statues; and further, executed in marble or granite that the stone selected have the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts. (Exhibit A)

3. GRANITE FOR THE MUNICIPAL CENTER BUILDINGS: Captain Patrick H. Tansley, Assistant Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia, reported that the Municipal Architect proposes using dark granite for the base of the Municipal Center Buildings and submitted three samples of dark pink granite as follows: Texas pink, Conway pink and Johnson pink.

Mr. Wyeth, Municipal Architect, said he would not favor Milford pink since that was rather a light stone and when a limestone building weathers and becomes dark and the pink granite becomes noticeable, it seems as if the building were floating in the air. Attention was called to the fact that for the new Interior Department and the Archives Building Milford pink granite was used for the base.

The Commission decided that since it is the intention of the Municipal Architect to use a granite darker than weathered limestone for the base of the Municipal Center buildings, it would concur in this recommendation and of the three samples submitted approve any one of them. A report was made to Captain Tansley accordingly. (Exhibit B)

4. NEW DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LIBRARY: Mr. Wyeth submitted a drawing for the facade of the new District of Columbia library to be on Pennsylvania Avenue between John Marshall Place and Sixth Street, drawn in accordance with an agreement reached at a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission on June 28, that the pavilion projecting

from the main wall need not exceed 144 feet in width. Mr. Wyeth said that in this drawing the projection is actually 136 feet wide. He said it has been a difficult problem since he has been required to design a pavilion of a certain width for a building that will ultimately occupy the entire square. Only the central portion on Pennsylvania Avenue, that is the part including the pavilion, will be built now, although Mr. Wyeth said that Congress has authorized an appropriation of \$1,115,000 for the building in the 1900 District of Columbia appropriation act and the building will be built at 35 cents a cubic foot.

The architect members of the Commission inspected the design and all agreed that this is much the best elevation that Mr. Wyeth has submitted for it. The central pavilion is 36 feet back from the curb. The design showed three doors at the entrance, which was considered preferable to one door. Mr. Wyeth said 26 feet are necessary from the sixth floor to the top of the building for cooling apparatus and the elevator penthouse. Mr. Lamb said that possibly the attic story is a little too high and the styles of the cornice and penthouse are mixed. The building conforms in height to that of the Apex Building on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue and also in its architecture. Certain portions of detail relating to the project, which seemed to the architects somewhat unimproved upon, remained for further study and it was decided to consider these in a model of the building that would be submitted later. A letter of approval was sent to Mr. Wyeth. (EXHIBIT C)

5. NEW NAVY DEPARTMENT BUILDING: Mr. Louis Simon, Supervising Architect, and Colonel Le Roy Barton, Architectural Adviser, submitted several studies of suggested locations for the new Navy Department Building:

1. A scheme for the location of the building on the north side of B Street at 23rd Street, N. W.

2. Scheme showing the headhouse facing Constitution Avenue with the Navy Office Building proper in back of it and E Street carried through as a Mall scheme. Under this scheme a good part of the Naval Hospital hill would be cut down.

3. A scheme showing the Navy Building proper facing E Street and against the hill at 25th Street, and the headhouse for the office of the Secretary of the Navy asymmetrically located to the south of the main office building. The museum building would have a site in the recess between the headhouse and the office building and would face the water front. Each of these schemes provided for the berthing of historical ships as proposed. This third scheme suggested a lagoon to the east of the Rock Creek Parkway.

4. This scheme showed the Navy Building setting against the hill with the headhouse in front of it facing E Street and the museum building on the west side of it facing the lagoon and river.

The architect members of the Commission gave these schemes particular study and after consideration decided that the first scheme would be best since the building located north of E Street would be in a place where a really monumental building could be erected.

It was pointed out that the elevation near Constitution Avenue is about 30 feet high while at E Street it is about 66 feet. Thus a building erected on the west side of the hill would have E Street strike it at the fourth story.

Mr. Foster and Mr. Underwood, architects of the Supervising Architects Office of the Federal Works Agency, were asked to give the project further study. If the first scheme cannot be adopted then scheme 3 seemed to the Commission the best solution, subject to further study, but the plan shown is that scheme fronting the headhouse should be omitted. Mr. Clarke was strongly opposed to

creating a north and south axis near the Lincoln Memorial. It was thought that the headhouse in scheme 3 need not necessarily be located symmetrically with the Navy Office Building in back of it.

6. WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING: Colonel Le Roy Barton, Architectural Adviser of the Supervising Architect's office, Federal Works Agency, and Mr. Foster, architect of that office, submitted a drawing showing a sculptural frieze in high relief over the entrance of the new War Department Building as had been recommended at the meeting on June 23. Mr. Mallory inspected the design and said he had not had such an overpowering frieze in mind but some simple design which might also include lettering or an inscription.

The Commission felt further study should be given to the wall space over the main entrance, a simpler design than shown on the drawing being preferred. The wall space might be left undecorated or the design of this space might include lettering.

A model of the building was submitted and after inspection of it, the Commission felt that the wall in front of the pilasters should be brought back approximately 5 feet.

The Commission felt that the reentrant courts leading the entrance of the building were too deep and recommended that the projecting chest blocks be reduced so that the reentrant courts be no more than 5 feet deep. It was suggested that free standing sculpture could be set in front of the chest blocks, and be in a sense perpendicular to the front of the building. A report was sent to Colonel Barton. (Exhibit D)

7. ALBERT GALLATIN STATUE: Mr. Louis Simon, Supervising Architect, submitted a full sized drawing for the Albert Gallatin Statue showing the design.

tion. The Commission approved the design with the recommendation that the dates, 1761-1849 be placed at the bottom of the inscription.

8. NAVY AND MARINE MEMORIAL: Mr. J. H. Doran, representing the Virginia Greenstone Company, appeared before the Commission and offered samples of Virginia greenstone which he would like to use for the base of the Navy and Marine Memorial. Mr. Doran said the architect, Harvey Wiley Corbett, refuses to cooperate with him and thus he was coming to the Commission for advice with reference to certain details in the design of the base. Mr. Doran said that Mr. Corbett's design is complicated and will have to be simplified if the base of the memorial is to be completed for the \$50,000 to be made available.

The Commission decided that Mr. Doran should confer with officials of the National Park Service on the subject and offer his suggestions to the National Park Service, and Mr. Doran agreed to do so. Mr. Doran said that he felt the National Park Service would have difficulty in writing specifications and he was suggesting that in addition to the regular specifications he would ask that the National Park Service allow each bidder to submit a specification in accordance with which the base of the memorial could be completed for the \$50,000. The Commission thought such a request reasonable.

9. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ARMORY: The secretary reported that the District of Columbia Appropriation Act for the fiscal year 1940, beginning July 1, 1939, provides for location of the Armory at the end of East Capitol Street between East Capitol Street and Gallinger Hospital and that it authorizes a total cost of \$2,750,000, and for beginning construction appropriates \$500,000. Mr. Holen, Director of Planning of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, submitted a plan showing the location of the Armory at the end of East Capitol

Street at the south side of the street with a station on the north side and a parade ground in front of it facing Anacostia Park. Mr. Tolson said the approaches to the building are being studied by members of the staff of his Commission.

The Commission approved the location of the building as shown in the design and decided also that it might be built of brick. It was further decided to give this subject consideration at a joint meeting with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission to be held about the middle of September. Mr. Gertsch, Acting Superintendent of the Office of National Capital Parks, emphasized the matter of making the Armory a multiple use building since the Militia does not need the Armory every day whereas at present a large recreational area and other facilities are needed for recreational purposes.

10. RELOCATION OF THE WHITE HOUSE GREENHOUSES: Mr. Frank T. Gertsch, Acting Superintendent of National Capital Parks, submitted a plan showing the location of the greenhouses on a 60 acre tract at the "Thomas Airmont" and the Arlington Experimental Farm. Mr. Gertsch said there is much need for the new building since the existing ones near the Bureau of Entomology and Planting are in a congested area and are in bad shape. The proposed location is very convenient since there are constant calls for flowers up the White House Mall so that it is desirable to have the greenhouses as near to the White House as possible. Mr. Gertsch said the Government now owns the land comprising the 60 acres. He also pointed out a location for the Tourist Camp, which is to be moved from East Potomac Park and then complete that part as a playground in accordance with the approved design. The Commission approved the relocation of the White House greenhouses as indicated in the design, subject to further matters of detail and concurred in the removal of the existing ones.

10. MARCONI MEMORIAL: Under date of July 10, 1930, the following letter was received from Mr. Attilio Piccirilli, submitting a revised design for the pedestal of the Marconi Memorial:

Dear Mr. Chamberer:

I am enclosing revised drawing and specifications of the Marconi Monument and I hope the changes made will meet with the approval of the Commission.

I believe all changes recommended have been made.

It is quite impossible to send you the inscription at this time. However, I am indicating on the pedestal where inscription is to go.

Before I do anything about it I will send the Commission a scale drawing of it and later the full size required. Please drop me a line if changes made are satisfactory.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Attilio Piccirilli.

The revised specifications read as follows: (Exhibit F) The design and specifications were brought to the attention of Mr. Manship, who inspected them and noted that Mr. Piccirilli had embodied the recommendations made by the Commission of Fine Arts on June 9. Upon recommendation of the sculptor member, Mr. Manship, the Commission approved the design and specifications. (Exhibit F-1)

11. STATUE OF LEIFR EIRICSSON FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL: Under date of July 13, 1930, a letter was received from Judge Grimeson of North Dakota (Exhibit G) recommending the erection of a statue of Leifr Eiricsson in Washington. The Commission considered the matter. Mr. East said at that time that the statue of Leifr Eiricsson at the New York Fair is a bronze one and that when the committee offered the statue for exhibition it was said that after the close of the Fair it was proposed to have it erected in Washington.

Mr. Manship said there is a question whether the sculptor, A. Stirling Calder, had been consulted in this matter. He suggested that the statue might

be erected in Washington subject to the approval of the sculptor and the enactment of appropriate legislation by Congress. The Commission concurred in this and decided to consider the question of location after the enactment of legislation by Congress on the subject. The secretary was asked to inform Judge Grinson of this decision of the Commission. (Exhibit G-1)

12. NEON LIGHTS FOR MERIDIAN HILL PARK: Mr. Borie reported that he had received a letter from Mr. Horace W. Peaslee, architect of Meridian Hill Park, recommending that the Commission approve the use of neon lighting for the cascades of Meridian Hill Park and that they be installed in time for the International Convention of Architects to be held in Washington in September. The Commission considered the matter and recalled that this suggestion had been disapproved several years ago. It was pointed out that such lighting would have to be done with a great deal of skill. Mr. Borie said in answer that Mr. Peaslee had written to several individuals concerning this matter. The Commissioner suggested that Mr. Peaslee take this matter up formally with the Commission.

13. SHIPSTEAD-LOCE LOT SUBMISSIONS: The secretary submitted a design received from the Inspector of Buildings for a garage of the East Creek Ginger Ale Company, 207 Seventh Street, S. E. (Application No. 770) to be erected on the north end of the building similar to one at the south end. Mr. Chapin and Mr. Lamb inspected the design and upon their recommendation the Commission approved it.

Alteration of Building at 511 Second Street, N. E. (Application No. 772)
The plan proposed using black glass on the face of a brick residence, which is to be remodeled into a cafe. The Commission disapproved the use of black glass but approved the plan for the interior rearrangement.

3. Areaway and Window for Continental Hotel. (Application No. 772) The design was inspected by Mr. Lamb and upon his recommendation the Commission approved it.

14. LAND FOR ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY: The Chairman reported that recently he had received a letter from Senator Sheppard, Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate, transmitting a letter from the Secretary of War, in which he disapproved the purchase of 25 acres between the old wall of Arlington National Cemetery and the Lee Boulevard because of the exorbitant price of the land. (Exhibit E) A copy of the letter was sent to the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

15. AMENDMENT OF SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT TO INCLUDE LAFAYETTE SQUARE: The secretary reported that the House and the Senate had passed the bill to include Lafayette Square in the Shipstead-Luce Act. The Commission felt that this was a most worthy piece of legislation. Mr. Clark raised a question concerning the design of the Lafayette Building and asked the secretary to inquire at the Building Inspector's Office whether a permit for the building had been issued.

(The secretary ascertained from the Building Inspector that there is not a permit for the foundation has been issued and left instructions that a permit not be issued for the building until after the submission of two plans to the Commission on Fine Arts and a report from the Commission concerning the design. This will be done. (The act was approved July 31, 1906 by the President.) (Exhibit

16. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF 1906: The secretary reported that Mr. Feaslee had brought up the question of submission of pictures and plans of Washington for the International Architect's Exhibition to be held in Washington, September 24-30, and asked if the Commission would cooperate in this matter.

The Commission decided that the Commission of Fine Arts would cooperate with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission in this matter upon a request from the convention committee for such an exhibition.

17. STATUE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON BY J. Q. A. WARD AND WILLIAM CLAYTON: JOHN MARSHALL STAGUE: The secretary reported that he had been informed by the House Committee on the Library that both H. R. 2157 and H. J. Res. 290 would be reported for action by the House of Representatives. (Exhibit J)

18. SUMMER VACATION: Mr. Clarke reported that he was sailing for Rome on July 22, and in the meantime he would turn over his duties as Chairman to Mr. Shepley, the Vice Chairman of the Commission. The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting about the middle of September and have a joint session with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

The Commission adjourned at 5:00 p. m.

July 30, 1938.

Dear Mr. Demaray:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on July 30, 1938, were pleased to consider with Mr. Nagle and Mr. James M. Fraser the question of completing the Arlington Memorial Bridge Statuary.

Mr. Fraser informed the Commission that he was ready to enter into a contract for his group, using Cherokee (Georgia) marble.

The Commission approved the use of Cherokee marble and decided also that the use of Chelmsford granite would be acceptable as an alternate. The Commission preferred that Mt. Airy (North Carolina) granite not be used.

The Commission decided also that the groups at the end of the Arlington Memorial Bridge and those at the entrance to the Rock Creek Parkway might be executed in either marble or granite or one group in marble and the other in granite, with the understanding that the stone finally selected have the approval of your office and the Commission.

Mr. Nagle of your office conferred with the Commission on the subject during the afternoon. The Commission concurred in his suggestion that the National Park Service might ask for bids for stone and might also arrange for the execution of the statuary with the understanding that the sculptors would have supervision over the execution of their respective groups.

The Commission understand that Mr. Leo Friedlander's groups will be at the entrance to the Arlington Memorial Bridge while those of Mr. Fraser will be at the entrance to the Rock Creek Parkway near the Lincoln Memorial.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Henry M. Nagle,
Acting Chairman.

Hon. A. E. Demaray,
Acting Director,
National Park Service,
Interior Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT 2

C O P Y

July 22, 1939.

Dear Mr. Wyeth:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on July 20, 1939, approved the drawing you submitted for the new District of Columbia Library on the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue between John Marshall Place and Sixth Street. There are a few matters of detail that the Commission wish to discuss with you when the model of the building is submitted.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Henry R. Shapley,

Acting Chairman.

Mr. Nathan C. Wyeth,
Municipal Architect,
District Building,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C

August 4, 1938.

Dear Colonel Barton:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on July 20, 1938, approved the design submitted by you for the headhouse of the new War Department Building.

The Commission felt further study should be given to the wall space over the main entrance. A simpler design than shown on the drawing is preferred. The wall space might be left undecorated or the design of this space might include lettering.

The Commission felt that possibly two flagpoles would be sufficient rather than three as indicated in the drawing.

With regard to the wall in front of the pilasters at the main entrance, referred to in the letter from the Commission of Fine Arts, dated June 29, the Commission advise that after further study of the model of the building, this wall should be brought back one stone joint or approximately five feet.

Also, the Commission recommend that the reentrant courts flanking the entrance steps be reduced by reducing the length of the projecting cheek blocks so that the reentrant courts will not have a depth of possibly more than five feet. Free standing sculpture might stand in front of the cheek blocks and be in a space perpendicular to the front of the building.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Harry A. Chrysler,

Acting Chairman.

Colonel Le Roy Barton,
Office of the Supervising Architect,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

Encl. 1

C O P Y

July 28, 1939.

Dear Mr. Demaray:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on July 26, 1939, considered a design submitted in your behalf by Mr. Frank I. Fortwile, Acting Superintendent of the Office of National Capital Parks, for relocation of the White House Greenhouses.

The Commission approved the suggested location in the Hoover Airport area and the grounds of the Arlington Experimental Farm, it being understood that a more detailed plan will be submitted later.

The Commission strongly favored the relocation of the tourist camp in East Potomac Park near the site of the new White House Greenhouses as shown in the plan.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Henry R. Shagley,

Acting Chairman.

Hon. A. E. Demaray,
Acting Director,
National Park Service,
Interior Department,
Washington, D. C.

Encls. 3

SPECIFICATIONS FOR MONUMENT TO DR. COME
ATTILIO FICCHINELLI - 1891-1901
JOSEPH H. FREYBENDER - 1891-1901

Specification Brief

GENERAL CONDITIONS -

The General Conditions as set forth by the American Institute of Architects are a part of this Specification.

EXCAVATION -

The Contractor shall visit the site and assume all responsibility for the condition thereof and must perform all excavation required to construct the monument including: excavation of earth and rock and its removal from premises; providing backfill around foundation work; excavation and removal of earth within the property lines sufficient to meet established grades for final planting or sodding grass; all shoring, bracing, piling, etc.; obtain all permits; furnish all tools and supplies; protect all existing work about the site whatever nature; furnish all backfill required after foundation or other work is approved.

CONCRETE WORK -

Contractor shall visit site and assume all responsibility for the conditions thereof.

Work included comprises all labor and materials necessary for all concrete or reinforced concrete work according to nature of soil.

All work should be done as noted on drawings and shall consist of one part Portland Cement, two parts sand, four parts Broken Stone.

Forms shall be made of tongue and groove lumber.

Reinforcement if necessary shall be as indicated on the drawings and concrete placed in forms shall be thoroughly tamped. No concrete work shall be done in the rain or freezing weather.

In hot weather, concrete shall be wet down with water for the first week. Concrete shall be thoroughly set before removal of forms.

GRANITE WORK -

The Contractor shall visit the site and assume all responsibility for the condition thereof.

The Contractor shall furnish all labor and materials necessary for completion of all granite work as called for on the drawings.

The Contractor shall submit setting drawings, showing the method of jointing, bonding, etc.

All granite work shall be cut and quarried under conditions that will not conflict with the usual trade practices.

All Granite shall be "Stony Creek" Granite sound and of uniform color free from quarry sap and impurities and in accordance to sample in the Architect's office.

All granite shall be delivered to the site when required and shall be protected from contact with the ground.

All granite shall be accurately cut as to lay on its natural quarry bed. All granite shall extend 4" below grade.

All granite shall be in sizes as indicated in the drawings.

All granite shall receive a fine ground finish except that treads of steps and tread of platform shall be fine axed finished.

The Contractor will cut all holes necessary for the anchorage of bronze bust and statue.

SEEDING AND PLANTING -

The Contractor shall examine the site and assume all responsibility for the conditions thereof.

The Contractor is to supply all tools and equipment and labor necessary for the seeding and planting of the plot.

Sub grade shall be 1' (one foot) below finished grade.

Top soil shall be good quality free of all objectionable matter with a 1/2 mixture of rotted manure.

All grading shall be done so to drain away all surface water from the site of the monument.

All seeding and planting shall be done under a separate contract.

C O P Y

July 20, 1938.

Dear Mr. DiFalco:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting today, approved the revised design submitted by Mr. Piccirilli for the pedestal of the Marconi Monument and also the specifications. These received the particular attention of Mr. Paul Manship, sculptor member of the Commission.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clark,

Chairman.

Mr. Samuel Di Falco, Secretary,
Marconi Memorial Foundation,
270 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

ENCLOSURE F-1

State of North Dakota

DISTRICT COURT
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

CHAMBERS OF
JUDGEMUNDUR GRIMSON, JUDGE
RUGBY N DAK

July 13, 1939.

Mr. H. B. Caemmerer, Secretary,
Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:-

You may remember that last year I participated in the negotiations with you and the Fine Arts Commission regarding the using of the plaster cast of the statue of Leifr Ericsson for the making of a bronze replica to use at the Icelandic Pavilion at the New York World's Fair. That was successfully accomplished and the replica will be for further disposition at the end of the Fair.

In the talks with you my recollection is that you said that if the statue were given to the United States a suitable site in Washington, together with an appropriation for a base, could likely be secured.

I would like very much to hear from you further in that respect. We are very anxious to place this statue where it will attract the most attention, because of the significance for which it stands and because of the beauty of the statue. We would be especially pleased if it could be placed on Pennsylvania Avenue or some place near the Capitol where visitors to the Capitol would generally notice it.

While the Committee has not made final disposition with regard to this matter I think it is the sentiment of all members of the committee to give this statue to the Congress or the United States.

I am sure that Senator Lynn J. Frazier will be glad to take whatever steps are necessary in Congress. I am sending a copy of this letter to him.

Will you kindly let me hear from you with regard to this matter and both as to site and appropriation for base.

Thanking you and with kind personal regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

C O P Y

July 22, 1939.

My dear Judge Grimson:

Your letter of July 13, was received, and I had the pleasure to bring it to the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on July 20.

The Commission of Fine Arts would have no objection to the erection of a statue of Leif Ericsson here in Washington provided such erection has the approval of the sculptor, A. Stirling Calder. The question of location is one that would not be taken up by the Commission of Fine Arts until after the enactment of legislation by Congress authorizing the erection of the statue here in Washington.

I shall be delighted to cooperate with Senator Frazier in this matter and am sending a copy of this letter to him.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) H. F. Coe, Jr.,

Secretary.

Honorable G. Grimson,
Judge, District Court,
Fargo, North Dakota.

EXHIBIT -1

MORRIS SHEPPARD, TEX., CHAIRMAN
M. M. LOGAN, KY.
ROBERT R. REYNOLDS, N. C.
ELBERT D. THOMAS, UTAH
SHERMAN MINTON, IND.
EDWIN C. JOHNSON, COLO.
JOHN LEE, OKLA.
HARRY H. SCHWARTZ, WYO.
ERNEST LUNDEEN, MINN.
LISTER HILL, ALA.
SHERIDAN DOWNEY, CALIF.
JAMES M. SLATTERY, ILL.

WARREN R. AUSTIN, VT.
GERALD P. NYE, N. DAK.
STYLES BRIDGES, N. H.
CHAN GURNEY, S. DAK.
RUFUS C. HOLMAN, OREG.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

July 11, 1939.

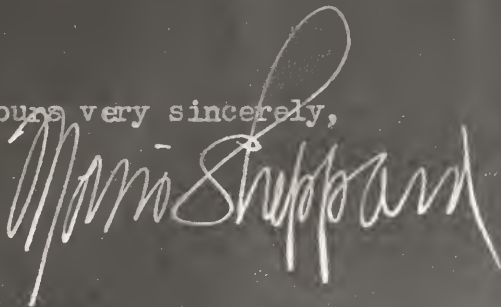
VICTOR RUSSELL, CLERK
W. I. SMALLEY, ASST. CLERK

Dear Mr. Clarke:

In reference to the possible acquisition by the War Department for an addition to Arlington National Cemetery of a tract of land lying between the north wall of the cemetery and the Lee Boulevard, I send you herewith a letter from the Secretary of War advising that the Department has no intention of proposing legislation which would enable it to acquire the land in question.

I desire to say that this matter was presented to the Senate Committee on Military Affairs at its meeting on July 7th, and the Committee concurred in the view of the Secretary of War.

Yours very sincerely,



Gilmore D. Clarke, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D.C.

RECEIVED H

*Noted
7/14/39*

WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

June 27, 1939.

Honorable Morris Sheppard,
Chairman, Committee on Military Affairs,
United States Senate.

Dear Senator Sheppard:

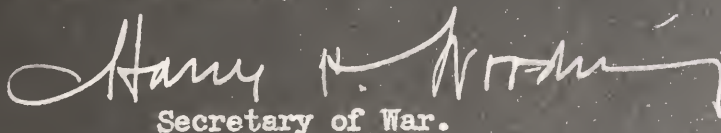
Acknowledgment is made of your letter of May 10, 1939, inclosing a communication from the Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts, relative to the acquisition by the War Department for an addition to Arlington National Cemetery of a tract of land lying between the north wall of that cemetery and the Lee Boulevard.

The land in question is well adapted for use as an addition to the Arlington National Cemetery and is entirely suitable for cemetery purposes. However, the quoted price on this land, i.e., \$37,500 per acre, is considered exorbitant, especially in view of the fact that its addition to Arlington would not solve permanently the cemetery problem within the vicinity of Washington. This purchase would add only about fifteen years to the life of Arlington. For the amount of money involved, it is believed that an entire new cemetery could be established which would fulfill the need for burial sites within the vicinity of Washington for at least sixty years. While this addition is desirable, the War Department does not recommend its purchase due to its cost.

The Department has no intention of proposing legislation which would enable it to acquire this land.

This report has been submitted to the Bureau of the Budget which advises that there is no objection to its submission to the Committee as the proposed legislation would not be in accord with the program of the President.

Sincerely yours,


Secretary of War.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

GILMORE D. CLARKE, Chairman
CHARLES MOORE HENRY R. SHEPLEY
EUGENE F. SAVAGE WILLIAM F. LAMB
CHARLES L. BORIE, Jr. PAUL MANSHIP

H. P. CAEMMERER, Secretary

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C.

RECEIVED
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
JUL 31 1939

NOTED

July 28th, 1939

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer
Secretary, The Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer,

On July 19th, I made a trip to New Rochelle to inspect Michael Lantz' quarter full size groups for the Apex Building. This he requested me to do, so that progress on the sculpture could be verified for the Commission of Fine Arts.

The case of Michael Lantz is one of a talented young sculptor who won the competition on the merits of a well-organized sculptural composition and within the limits of a suggestive, though not detailed, treatment of form, and the working out of the models at larger scale indicates to me that he has really not had enough experience to carry out successfully - within the time limitations originally suggested - the difficult problems involved. This is the second time I have seen these sculptures, and I think that he has considerably improved them since my first visit.

Why bother about putting this in Minutes as of the last meeting, as I shall want to bring the matter before the Commission of Fine Arts at its next meeting?

Sincerely yours,

